Top Rated
Operating Systems for Business

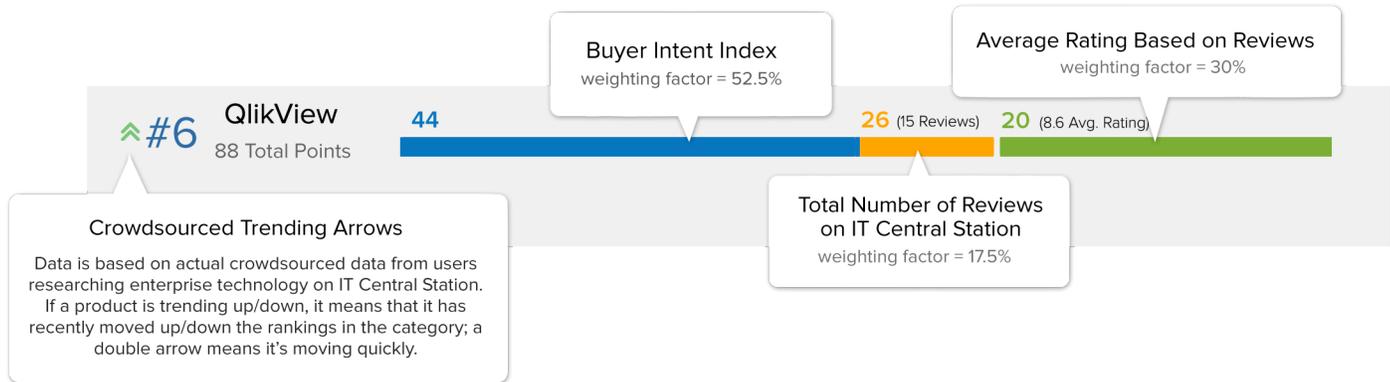# 2017

Based on product reviews,
crowdsourced rankings, and
buyer intent data as of
May 1, 2017

IT Central Station
Unbiased reviews from the tech community

IDG Enterprise
An IDG Communications Company

About This Report

Rankings

The **total ranking of a product** (i.e. bar length) is based on a weighted aggregate ranking of a product's Buyer intent, Total Number of Reviews on IT Central Station, and Average Rating Based on Reviews. For each ranking factor, the score is calculated as a product of the weighting factor and its position for that ranking factor. For example, if a product has 80% of the number of reviews compared to the product with the most reviews in its category, then the product's ranking score for reviews would be 17.5% (weighting factor) * 80% = 14.

Buyer Intent Index
weighting factor = 52.5%

Average Rating Based on Reviews
weighting factor = 30%

≫ #6   **QlikView**   44   26 (15 Reviews)   20 (8.6 Avg. Rating)
88 Total Points

Crowdsourced Trending Arrows

Data is based on actual crowdsourced data from users researching enterprise technology on IT Central Station. If a product is trending up/down, it means that it has recently moved up/down the rankings in the category; a double arrow means it's moving quickly.

Total Number of Reviews on IT Central Station
weighting factor = 17.5%

About Us

IT Central Station
Unbiased reviews from the tech community

User reviews, candid discussions, and more for enterprise technology professionals.

The Internet has completely changed the way we make buying decisions. We now use ratings and review sites to see what other real users think before we buy electronics, book a hotel, visit a doctor or choose a restaurant. But in the world of enterprise technology, most of the information online and in your inbox comes from vendors but what you really want is objective information from other users. IT Central Station provides technology professionals with a community platform to share information about enterprise solutions.

IT Central Station is committed to offering user-contributed information that is valuable, objective and relevant. We validate all reviewers with a triple authentication process, and protect your privacy by providing an environment where you can post anonymously and freely express your views. As a result, the community becomes a valuable resource, ensuring you get access to the right information and connect to the right people, whenever you need it.

IT Central Station does not endorse or recommend any products or services. The views and opinions of reviewers quoted in this document, IT Central Station websites, and IT Central Station materials do not reflect the opinions of IT Central Station.

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IDG Enterprise
An IDG Communications Company

IDG Enterprise, an International Data Group (IDG) division, brings together the leading B2B editorial brands (CIO, Computerworld, CSO, InfoWorld and Network World) to serve the information needs of our technology- and security-focused audiences.

As the leading enterprise technology media, data and services company, IDG Enterprise unites the enterprise technology ecosystem. We leverage the strengths of our premium brands, while also harnessing their collective reach and audience affinity. We provide converged marketing solutions for tech marketers to engage IT and security decision-makers across our portfolio of award-winning websites, events, digital magazines, products and services. IDG's Insider program offers premium content (such as reviews, research, guides and interviews) for registered IT buyers.

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IDG is the world's leading technology media, events and research company, reaching 280 million technology buyers in 97 countries.

Top 5 Operating Systems for Business

Points Key ■ Buyer Intent Index ■ Reviews ■ Average Rating

46.7   **17.5** (28 Reviews) **24.64** (8.2 Avg. Rating)

#1 Oracle Linux
88.84 Total Points

★★★★☆
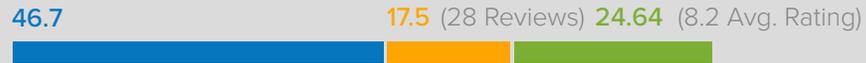
"When designing a new Oracle database platform, Oracle Linux provides built-in benefits for database customers that are not available on any other platform. This has improved the performance, availability, scalability, and security of our architecture.

- Review Excerpt from a Real User | See All Reviews

31.5   **1.88** (3 Reviews) **27** (9 Avg. Rating)

#2 Ubuntu Linux
60.38 Total Points

★★★★★

"Although Ubuntu is based on Debian Linux, it ships with (more or less) current software. In addition, there a are a lot of community-based repositories which can easily be added. Since Ubuntu provides LTS releases with 5 years of support...

- Review Excerpt from a Real User | See All Reviews

21.19   **11.88** (19 Reviews) **26.37** (8.8 Avg. Rating)

#3 Oracle Solaris
59.43 Total Points

★★★★☆

"I've worked with different flavors of Unix, but I chose Solaris. I like the constant innovation in the software and hardware... Solaris lets you isolate zones and migrate them to other servers. You can also move old releases of OS's from obsolete hardware...

- Review Excerpt from a Real User | See All Reviews

14.57 **0.63** (1 Review) **27** (9 Avg. Rating)

#4 Windows 10
41.67 Total Points

32.72   **0.63** (1 Review) **0** (Avg. Rating N/A)

#5 RHEL
3.35 Total Points

Real User Reviews of Oracle Linux

⭐ ⭐ ⭐ ⭐ ⭐

> 66 Out Of The Box It's Already Pre-Optimized And Pre-Configured. Having That Marriage Between The OS And The Database Is Critical.

Read Full Review

VALUABLE FEATURES

What I like about Oracle Linux is that out of the box it's already pre-optimized, pre-configured, has all the right RPMs, has checking packages. It's basically all the stuff I would have to do with a different distribution manually. It probably saves me a couple of hours on each time I do a database install, and that's worth a lot. Plus, the performance is better because it's been highly optimized or tuned. The kernels been optimized. The memory management specifically is better, so it makes for a very stable platform.

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

Performance and stability. I can get maximum performance with the least amount of effort, and stability-wise, I never have a crash. I've yet to have one.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

One of them is because I'm lazy, and most people wouldn't admit that, but when you go from version 6 to version 7 of Linux, a lot of commands changed, and even some file locations have changed. I wish they would keep the compatibility mode, or the stupid mode for me for a couple of years. I hate to learn new commands right away, but it is what it is.

Just keeping up, keeping the pace with the Red Hat main distributions, so if Red Hat's on 7.3, I'd like to see Enterprise Linux on 7.3, at the same time. On one occasion, I think they actually beat Red Hat. I think they came out with their point release first. That's what I would kind of like, is for them to stay very aggressive on that, because kernel modifications typically end up being performance. They have taken the best of Solaris and put it into it. They keep adding tools that are necessary for doing performance optimization and monitoring. It's very mature..

STABILITY ISSUES

What's really nice about the stability is that even when you have situations that might cause issues with other OSs, other variants of Linux, Oracle Enterprise Linux seems to do a better job of catching and handling those exceptions. An example would be, maybe I'm doing a wrap-cluster or I'm using ASM, automatic storage management, there are some cases where those products can cause an error that might cause a different distribution of Linux to maybe hang or lock or get confused. With Enterprise Linux it seems to be a non-issue. It's very stable.

SCALABILITY ISSUES

I love the scalability. Because of the fact that it's already optimized for performance, I can scale it to whatever maximum numbers I need very easily. The only time I have to make any adjustments is if I'm doing RAC, real application clusters, I may want to tune a little bit differently based on the number of nodes, but it's very minimal.

ABOUT THE REVIEWER

Bert S. [Real User ✓]

Senior Product Manager at a software R&D company with 501-1,000 employees

Watch Video Review

[Download Oracle Linux]

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Oracle technical support is like most companies with technical support. It's either great or horrible. It sort of depends on the phone call. Generally speaking, it's great. A lot of times though, if you're in a mission critical situation, you need to get them to escalate you to level two so that you can get beyond the first level and typically you can get an answer quicker. I would say the most interesting interaction I had with them was, one time I was patching an Exadata machine and I did a step wrong because I didn't read all the directions. Did an incorrect step. Ruined my Exadata box. Made sure that they got me to second level support, and then it took us about eight hours working together but we got it recovered. Very few vendors would have spent eight hours, midnight to eight AM, just on a phone call.

Continued on next page...

PREVIOUS SOLUTIONS

I was an early adopter of Linux, long before companies saw the light, and before it went mainstream. I would say I got into the early adopter, sort of experimental stage, so that I would be prepared when my companies were positioned to take advantage of it, I would already be an expert.

I actually started using Linux, probably about the time that Red Hat was Red Hat version 3, so more than a decade ago, probably closer to 15 years, and part of that was because I could see that the commoditization of hardware was going to mean that server rooms were going to be predominantly Intel, and they were going to predominantly be Windows and Linux, and you'd better know both of them. With Linux being a much lower cost OS, and also hosting databases like Oracle really well, you just knew it was going to end up in the Enterprise environment, and it just made sense to work with Enterprise Linux. Now I worked originally with Red Hat and CentOS, but it very clearly became evident to me that Oracle Enterprise Linux, starting at version 5.8, was just as good, just as stable, offered more with very few differences in the learning curve.

Oracle does have a few additional tools that are not on the standard distribution, but they actually make your job a lot of easier, like for example, one of them is an RPM check. It just checks to make sure we have all of the pre-loaded or the pre-required RPMs loaded, and there's nothing to do other than to activate it, and it just gives you a message. It's not very hard to learn these additional features.

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Honestly, if you've done any Linux installation of any distribution, and specifically if you've done CentOS or Red Hat, all that really changes are some of the images and backgrounds and colors and labels, but other than that, it's probably 98% identical, but Oracle does have some optimizations and some additional RPMs already installed. It's a very small difference, but if you know Linux, and even if you're with a different variant, say like a Ubuntu, you'll still be okay. You won't be a fish out of water.

COST AND LICENSING ADVICE

I think that the licensing model is fair. It's reasonable. What's nice is that if you have the database tech support or maintenance, and you have the Linux support or maintenance, for them it's one phone call. Now you may switch a person on the phone, but you're not having to call and get back in the queue again, so it's nice to deal with one company, especially for a critical asset like a database.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED

The marriage with the database, to me is the most critical or most important item. Now I know that sounds like I may be pandering to Oracle, since they make the database and they make the OS, but it's just a natural. The same as with Microsoft SQL Server. Why do you run it on Windows? Now, I know it's coming on Linux, but where will it probably run best for a long time? Probably on Windows.

Having that marriage between the OS and the database is critical, and Oracle really understands their database, better than anybody else, and they seem to understand Linux as well as anybody else, and they were an early contributor, so it's just a natural progression to put the database on their Linux.

OTHER ADVICE

Rating: It's a 10, because even though there are free alternatives, I mean totally free alternatives, like CentOS, I've quit using them. For me to quit using something that's totally free, with no even maintenance charges, must mean that what I've chosen is worth every penny of whatever costs there are. Oracle Linux is clearly there.

Disclosure: IT Central Station contacted the reviewer to collect the review and to validate authenticity. The reviewer was referred by the vendor, but the review is not subject to editing or approval by the vendor.

★★★★⯪

> ❝ Ksplice Allows Us To Apply Kernel Patches Without Rebooting The System. BTRFS Detects File System Corruption And Fixes It.

VALUABLE FEATURES

- Native support with Oracle database and these features:

- OCFS2 (Clustered File System): Open-source alternative to proprietary cluster file systems.

- Ksplice: Apply patches to the kernel without rebooting the system; zero downtime for critical security updates.

- Dtrace: Excellent diagnostic tool for analysis and troubleshooting ported from Sun Solaris.

- Docker containers: Full support, framework optimized and integrated with - WebLogic Server Docker containers.

- Btrfs: Detects file system corruption and fixes it; improves backup operations and improves file system and storage capacity by reducing disk seeks and disk I/O operations.

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

Each month, my team makes a full update of the environment, including: Windows system, databases, Linux system and network systems. We reduced the downtime considerably on our Oracle databases by using Ksplice on our Linux systems.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Hardware vendors certified by Oracle for installing Oracle Linux are: Dell, HPE and Oracle. The product needs to be certified by more vendors to gain more clients and increase the size of market share.

USE OF SOLUTION

I started using this solution four years ago.

STABILITY ISSUES

I have not had any stability issues. My databases servers have been up since the last maintenance and there have been no issues during the business day.

SCALABILITY ISSUES

I own a RAC cluster with two nodes. It is a medium-size environment supported by Oracle Linux. Scalability never was a problem in my scenario.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Technical support is technically good, but the response time is high. It can take up to weeks to actually solve the problem.

PREVIOUS SOLUTIONS

We used Red Hat Enterprise Linux, but licensing costs with Oracle VM decreased significantly, which motivated the change.

ABOUT THE REVIEWER

Leonardo Pedroso C. Real User ✅

Oracle Database Administrator at a tech services company with 1,0001-5,000 employees

Download Oracle Linux

INITIAL SETUP

Setup was very complex, using cluster resources and fine tuning at the OS level to improve performance.

COST AND LICENSING ADVICE

If possible, use Oracle VM; prices decrease absurdly!

OTHERS SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED

I didn't evaluate any other options, because we use Oracle Linux only for Oracle databases. And the Oracle database was in Red Hat and was supported only for two OSs available for my employer: Red Hat and Oracle Linux.

OTHER ADVICE

Study and learn about the Red Hat kernel and follow the news releases on the manufacturer site. Read the rich manual that Oracle offers.

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